

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 905

By Cobb J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend William Campbell Hilleary of Spring City for a lifetime of community service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to recognize those Tennesseans who have devoted so much of their lives to serving their communities and the people of this State;

WHEREAS, William Campbell Hilleary is one such estimable individual who has dedicated the greater part of his time and energies to improving the lives of those around him; for most of his life, Mr. Hilleary has been an important contributor to the well-being and prosperity of Spring City, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a successful businessman, civic leader, and philanthropist, William Campbell (Bill) Hilleary is the founder and CEO/Chairman of SSM Industries, Inc., a textile manufacturing facility in Spring City, Tennessee, which is the town's largest employer with an annual payroll of two million dollars; and

WHEREAS, William Campbell Hilleary was born on October 1, 1925, in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the only son of William Hilleary and Bertha Mae Campbell Hilleary. Following the untimely death of his mother, young William and his father relocated to Spring City, Tennessee, in 1927, to live with his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Mary Roseanna Metzger Campbell; and

WHEREAS, in 1932, his father married Sarah Jane Nell, and the young family settled into their own home while young Bill attended Spring City Elementary School. He completed elementary school in 1939, and the family moved to a house in Grandview, known as "Beehive" and later renamed "Hill-top" where the young man spent his early summers picking strawberries and mowing yards with work on the family farm coming later; and

WHEREAS, a 1943 graduate of Spring City High School where he served as president of the senior class, Bill Hilleary enrolled in Riverside Junior College in Gainesville, Georgia, to further his education from 1943-44; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hilleary volunteered for aviation cadet training in 1944 and proudly served his Nation during World War II as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corp; he was later commissioned as an officer in the Air Force Reserve, receiving his honorable discharge in 1964 having attained the rank of Major; and

WHEREAS, enrolling in the University of Tennessee, where he was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Bill Hilleary obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management in 1949, after having spent time in Alaska as a construction carpenter; and

WHEREAS, in 1949, Mr. Hilleary was employed as a Production Engineer by Southern Silk Mills, Inc., a Spring City textile manufacturer founded by his father in 1929; over the next thirty years he would serve as Division Manager, General Manager, Vice President, President and Board member; and

WHEREAS, founding SSM Industries in Pikeville, Tennessee, in 1982, Bill Hilleary would relocate the company to Spring City in 1985, becoming Chairman and CEO in 1994. As of 2009, the business produces over \$21,000,000 in sales annually, employs 95 individuals, and has a payroll of \$3,000,000; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 1956, William Campbell Hilleary was joined in holy matrimony with Evelyon Marie Vanderpool of Nashville, a graduate of East Nashville High School who became a highly successful real estate broker and owner of Evelyon Hilleary and Associates in Spring City, as well as Chair and ten-year member of the Rhea County School Board, serving during the construction and opening of Rhea County High School; and

WHEREAS, his business successes aside, Mr. Hilleary has also lent his time and considerable talents to public service in several capacities during his lifetime, having served a number of years as a Justice of the Peace on the Rhea County Quarterly Court and as a member of the Rhea County Court during the time period when the new Rhea County High School was built; and

WHEREAS, working tirelessly to help his neighbors and his community, Bill Hilleary served for twelve years on the original Rhea County Hospital Board of Directors and worked with then Governor Winfield Dunn to get the railroad overpass to the new Rhea County High School funded; he donated property in Spring City to the Tennessee Valley Theatre and property on New Lake Road in Spring City for a doctor's clinic; and

WHEREAS, a longtime Boy Scout troop scoutmaster in Spring City, Mr. Hilleary, in 1996 and with the assistance of The Conservation Fund, donated 231 acres to the State of Tennessee, and in 1997 donated another twenty-eight acres that, combined with a 186 acre tract of land donated by his father in 1959, make up the Piney Falls State Natural Area, which covers 440 scenic acres; and

WHEREAS, recognized as the Tennessee Republican Party Statesman of the Year from the Fourth Congressional District in 2003, William Campbell Hilleary has a distinguished record of service to the Tennessee Republican Party, having served ten years as a member of the State Executive Committee and a number of years as a member of the Executive Committee of the Rhea County Republican Party where he continues to hold the office of Parliamentarian; and

WHEREAS, an official delegate to the 2004 Republican National Convention in New York and an alternate to the 1992, 1996, and 2008 Republican National Conventions in Houston, Texas, San Diego, California, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, Bill Hilleary was a major participant during the reorganization of the Rhea County Republican Party about ten years ago and was an active worker in the campaign of Bill Brock; and

WHEREAS, a former member of the University of Tennessee Board of Governors, Mr. Hilleary is a current member of the University of Tennessee Alumni Legislative Council Committee, a former board member of the Audrey Pack Library Foundation, a former member of the Board of Trustees of Bryan College, and is currently a board member of Spring City Health Services, Inc., a non-profit provider of rural healthcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, a devout gentleman, Mr. Hilleary is a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church in Spring City, having served as an Elder and a Deacon; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years of hard work and service to his fellows, Bill Hilleary has taken pride and comfort in his family; his beloved wife, Evelyon, and their children: William Vanderpool (Van) Hilleary, a former United States Congressman; Brent Campbell Hilleary; Scott Neil Hilleary; and Sarah Allison Hilleary Chandler; and their grandchildren: William Alexander Hilleary, Joseph Campbell Hilleary, Parker Campbell Hilleary, Rebecca Scott Hilleary, Andrew Clarke Hilleary, Tyler Keith Chandler, Hilleary Marie Chandler, Laura Brooks Hilleary, Suzanna Beatrice Hilleary, Charlotte Virginia Hilleary, and William Campbell Hilleary II; and

WHEREAS, as a businessman, a family man, a public servant, and a tireless supporter of his community, William Campbell Hilleary has come to stand as an example of the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend William Campbell Hilleary for his service to the people of his community and the State of Tennessee, thank him for all he has done to improve the lives of his fellow citizens, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.